



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

April 29, 2010

WHS 10-03

TO: Eric Lauritzen, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner
Frank Carl, Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner
Kurt Floren, Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner

SUBJECT: PILOT TEST - THE SECURE ACCESS WEBSITE (SAW)

In the Spring of 2008, Worker Health and Safety Branch (WHS) staff informed the Pesticide Regulatory Activities Committee (PRAC) of plans to initiate a project intended to protect personal information contained in official documents related to pesticide illness investigations. This project was based on providing each County Agricultural Commissioner's (CACs) office an account in the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPRs) e-mail system. As explained at the Pesticide Regulatory Affairs Committee (PRAC) meeting, this was not the preferred approach to address the data/information security issues, but at that time, establishing a secure web-based means to facilitate the information exchanges was not within the Department's means.

More recently however, DPR's Information Technology Branch (ITB) was able to initiate the development of a secure website that will eventually serve many programs and business functions within the Department. Because of our previous efforts to address information security, WHS was selected to collaborate with ITB on this endeavor. We have performed the initial beta testing, and now are ready to initiate a pilot test with a small number of CACs. The Secure Access Website, or SAW, will allow counties to securely send and receive electronic files that potentially contain confidential information.

WHS staff have communicated with staff in your office and we understand that your office is willing and interested in participating in this pilot of the SAW. The testing will consist of two phases:

1st Phase – Test a) access to the website, b) login to SAW and c) sending and receiving non – confidential “dummy” files.” WHS will send dummy files to the counties for download from SAW. Counties, on the other hand, will send dummy files to WHS via SAW. Once these basic SAW tasks have been performed without significant problems, we will move to the next phase.

2nd Phase – “Business as Usual.” Counties will be asked to disregard California Poison Control System (CPCS) notifications. Counties will rely solely on WHS for Pesticide Incident Reports (PIRs) from CPCS, Doctor's First Report of Occupational Illness and Injury (DFROII) and/or other documents initiating an investigation. In return, counties should send all completed investigations (PEIRs) as a single scanned PDF file via SAW.



Monterey, Sacramento, and Los Angeles CACs
April 29, 2010
Page 2

Your participation in this pilot project is greatly appreciated. The outcome of this pilot will help us move towards a paperless system and a secure means of sharing confidential information. If you have any questions regarding this pilot, please contact George Farnsworth at (916) 445-4163, or gfarnsworth@cdpr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by S. Edmiston]

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cc: Larry Wasson, Chief, Information Technology Branch
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